

Dear Chairman Gilbert,
Members of the House Tax Policy Committee,

My wife, Patty and I retired to Leelanau County almost 10 years ago and are part of a significant retiree population living here. It is my understanding that retirees like us account for a majority of money spent within the County. I am writing to express my concerns about provisions in the House Bill 4361 that I feel will have a negative impact on my community, its small businesses and the overall economy of the county.

If the current proposed Bill goes into effect, it will be a 12-fold increase for retirees in their Michigan Income Tax. It will be the largest increase in State income tax for us that I can remember. This revenue may help the State budget but will certainly hurt the economy of our county.

In addition, Leelanau County has a significant number of low-income residents. The elimination of the earned income tax credit will hurt our local economy as almost all of that income is spent on local goods and services.

The proposed business tax changes will have little impact on our county but the provisions discussed above will have a very negative impact. The small rural communities of Northern Michigan depend on tourism and retiree income rather than big business. I ask the Committee to consider these issues during your deliberations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Henry DeYoung
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